**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 2 and 17 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 3, 11, 19, and 22 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a client device, a method comprising:

dynamically obtaining by the client device at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

D1 dynamically obtaining configuration data from a remote ~~alert~~ proxy for alert detection using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

automatically configuring the client device using the ~~dynamically obtained~~ configuration data obtained from the proxy for alert detection to enable the client device to detect alerts.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the client device is enabled to detect alerts while in a reduced functional state.

D2 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the reduced functional state includes an operating system unavailable state.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first server operates according to a dynamic host control protocol (DHCP).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one alert detection parameter is requested by the client device from the first server.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one alert detection parameter is requested by the client device using the options field of a dynamic host control protocol (DHCP) message.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically obtaining by the client device the at least one alert detection parameter further comprises dynamically obtaining at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the alert destination address uniquely identifies the remote alert proxy on a network.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration data is dynamically obtained from a remote alert proxy through a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

11. (Currently Amended) In a first server, a method comprising:

receiving by ~~an alert~~ a proxy for alert detection, a configuration data request from a client device, the configuration data request being submitted by the client device using at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter; and

providing the requested configuration data to the client device to enable the client device to be automatically configured and to detect alert events.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter is dynamically obtained from a second server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the second server operates according to a dynamic host control protocol (DHCP).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of a dynamically obtained alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the dynamically obtained alert destination address uniquely identifies the first server on a network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the requested configuration data is provided to the client device through a remote management and control protocol (RMCP).

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the client device is enabled to detect alerts independent from whether an operating system is operable on the client device.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising logic to:

dynamically obtain at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote ~~alert~~ proxy for alert detection using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

configure the apparatus using the ~~dynamically obtained~~ configuration data obtained from the proxy for alert detection to enable the apparatus to detect alerts.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the at least one obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the logic configures the apparatus to:

detect alerts while the apparatus is in an operating system unavailable state.

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

dynamically obtain at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote ~~alert~~ proxy for alert detection using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

configure a device containing the processor to detect alerts using the ~~dynamically obtained~~ configuration data obtained from the proxy for alert detection.

23. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions further subscribe the processor to configure the device to:

detect alerts while the device is in a reduced functional state.

24. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the at least one obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

25-31. (Cancelled)